

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /085 W

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R 141102Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2243

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 0453

E.O. 11652 N/A

SUBJ: SRI LANKA TRADE ACT OF 1974

REF: (A) STATE 28219 (B) STATE 23544 (C) STATE 21689

(D) COLOMBO 0382

1. SUMMARY: BASED ON RECENT GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON  
WE HAVE HAD INITIAL DETAILED SICUSSIONS WITH GSL TRADE  
MINISTRY WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS CONCERNING TRADE ACT AND  
GSP PROVISIONS. BASED ON EARLIER CABINET LEVEL  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND THESE RECENT CONVERSATIONS WE  
CONFIRM GSL'S INTEREST IN BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING  
COUNTRY (BBS) DESIGNATION. WE SEE LITTLE PROBABILITY  
THAT GSL WOULD RENOUNCE BDC DESIGNATION. WE ARE  
SUGGESTING REAFFIRMATION OF GSL'S INTEREST AND SEEKING  
DETAILS OF THEIR THINKING ON TRADE BILL. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE REPEATED INQUIRIES, OUR INITIAL APPROACH TO  
GSL HAS BEEN DELAYED BY TRADE OFFICIALS' PREOCCUPATION  
WITH ANNUAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC. EMBASSY  
ECONOMIC-COMMERICAL OFFICER HAS NOW HAD DETAILED  
DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE WHO IS SENIOR  
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WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL CONCERNED. GIVEN SUBSTANCE OF

GUIDANCE IN REFS (A), (B), AND (C), DELAY WAS FORTUNATE  
SINCE WE BELIEVE GSL IS SENSITIVE AND SOMEWAHT  
APPREHENSIVE ABOUT IMPACT OF WORLD TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ON WHAT  
IT FEELS IS ITS ALREADY DISADVANTAGED TRADE POSITION.

3. ALTHOUGH GSL GENERAL PROVISIONS,ESPECIALLY WITH  
RESPECT TO ELIGIBILITY, WERE REVIEWD IN DETAIL, FURTHER  
CONVERSATIONS WILL BE REPIRED TO DETERMINE GSL'S EXACT  
POSITION AND PROBABLE POLICY CONCERNING TRADE ACT ONNCE  
THEY HAVE STUDIED IT IN DETAIL.

4. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 3REF (B) WE HAVE REVIEWED WITH  
COMMERCE DIRECTOR CONTENT OF FOREIGN AND INTERNAL TRADE  
MINISTER T.B. ILANGARATNE'S LETTER TO AMBASSADOR OF  
JUNE 4, 1973 (TRANSMITTED AS COLOMBO 1498, (JUNE 13, 1973  
AND A-149, JUNE 27, 1973) AND AMBASSADOR'S REPLY OF  
SEPTEMBER 7, 1973 (BASED ON GUIDANCE RECEIVED IN STATE  
153537, AUGUST 6, 1973. COMMERCE DIRECTOR AFFIRMED  
INFORMALLY THAT THIS STILL CONSTITUTES GSL'S EXPRESSION OF INT-

EREST IN BDC DESIGNATION. AMBASSADOR HAS WRITTEN TRADE  
MINISTER ENCLOSING COPY OF ACT AND SUMMARY AND SUMMARY OF  
PROVISIONS AND SUGGESTING WRITTEN REAFFIRMATION OF GSL  
INTEREST.

5. CONCERNING PARA 3 REF (A), AT THIS TIME WE BELIEVE IT  
VERY UNLIKELY GSL WOULD RENOUNCE BDC DESIGNATION BUT CLOSE  
CONSULTATION AND EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS AND OF ELIGIBILITY  
PROVISIONS WILL BE REQUIRED.

VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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